

Application No. 10/708,500
Amendment dated December 30, 2005
Reply to Office Action of October 3, 2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 7 and 11, and cancel claims 12-14 without prejudice as follows:

Listing of Claims

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An automotive interior trim component, comprising:
a substrate member ~~forming at least part of a structural support for~~ adapted to support the trim component within the interior of an automobile, said substrate member having a first side and a second side, and having at least one target area for providing a soft feel to the trim component, said substrate member having a first thickness outside said target area ~~to provide rigidity to such that~~ said substrate member is not pliable outside said target area, and a second thickness within said target area that is reduced relative to said first thickness such that said substrate member is pliable in said target area.
2. (ORIGINAL) The trim component of claim 1, wherein said first side of said substrate member is formed with a surface texture simulating a cover material for the trim component.
3. (ORIGINAL) The trim component of claim 1, further comprising reinforcing ribs formed on the second side of said substrate member, proximate said target area.

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4. (ORIGINAL) The trim component of claim 1, further comprising a flexible cover layer disposed on said first side of said substrate member, at least proximate said target area.

5. (ORIGINAL) The trim component of claim 4, further comprising a backing member disposed on said second side of said substrate member proximate said target area, said backing member cooperating with said cover layer and said target area of said substrate member to provide a soft feel to the trim component in said target area.

6. (ORIGINAL) The trim component of claim 5, wherein said backing member comprises foam material.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The trim component of claim 5;~~ An automotive interior trim component, comprising:

a substrate member forming at least part of a structural support for the trim component, said substrate member having a first side and a second side, and having at least one target area for providing a soft feel to the trim component, said substrate member having a first thickness outside said target area to provide rigidity to said substrate member, and a second thickness within said target area that is reduced relative to said first thickness such that said substrate is pliable in said target area;

a flexible cover layer disposed on said first side of said substrate member, at least proximate said target area; and

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a backing member disposed on said second side of said substrate member proximate said target area, said backing member cooperating with said cover layer and said target area of said substrate member to provide a soft feel to the trim component in said target area;

wherein said backing member comprises a cartridge having a first side confronting said target area, said first side of said cartridge including spaced, raised projections such that said cover layer can deflect between said projections upon application of force to said cover layer.

8. (ORIGINAL) The trim component of claim 5 further comprising a backing member support coupled to said second side of said substrate member and securing said backing member to said second side of said substrate member.

9. (ORIGINAL) The trim component of claim 4, wherein said flexible cover layer is molded over said substrate member.

10. (ORIGINAL) The trim component of claim 1, wherein said substrate member comprises an injection moldable polymer.

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11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An armrest, comprising:

a substrate member ~~forming at least part of a structural support for~~ adapted to support the armrest within the interior of an automobile, said substrate member having a first side and a second side, and having at least one target area for providing a soft feel to the armrest, said substrate member having a first thickness outside said target area ~~to provide rigidity to~~ such that said substrate member is not pliable outside said target area, and a second thickness within said target area that is reduced relative to said first thickness such that said substrate member is pliable in said target area;

a flexible cover layer disposed on said first side of said substrate member, at least proximate said target area;

a foam backing member disposed on said second side of said substrate member proximate said target area, said backing member cooperating with said cover layer and said target area of said substrate member to provide a soft feel to the armrest in said target area; and

a backing member support coupled to said second side of said substrate member and securing said backing member to said second side of said substrate member.

12-14. (CANCELED)